



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/316,033	05/21/1999	KOUKI HATAKEYAMA	0879-0234P	7274

2292 7590 06/18/2003

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

GENCO, BRIAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2615

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/316,033	HATAKEYAMA, KOUKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian C Genco	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-13,15-18 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-13,15-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2615

Applicant's amendment has overcome the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 10-13, 15-18, and 20.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 10-13, 15-18, and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11-13 and 16-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo).

In regards to claim 11 Matsuo discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., Fig. 1);

a connector for detachably connecting to an external storage medium (e.g., element 17 of Fig. 3);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into the external storage medium through the connector (e.g., element 16 of Fig. 3; column 4, lines 45-52);

a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63);

Art Unit: 2615

a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63);

a detector for detecting whether the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium, and for detecting an operation relating to detachment of the external storage medium while the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium (e.g., card detecting switch, element 18, detects if the connector is electrically connected to the memory card and the contact piece and detects an operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium while the connector is still connected to the storage medium, namely lock lever 7 is depressed when a user wants to eject the memory card wherein based on the lock lever being depressed the card detecting switch is turned on, thus detecting an operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium); and

a controller for performing suspension of power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium from the connector while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium during the suspension of power (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63).

In regards to claim 12 Matsuo discloses the electronic camera as defined in claim 11, wherein the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and resumed under control of the controller to at least one of the following: all the components supplied with the power from the power supply part except for the detector and the controller; the external storage medium interface; the connector; and the external storage medium. Examiner notes that in order to toggle the master switch upon detecting memory card is electrically connected power is inherently always supplied to the detector and the controller, otherwise if power was toggled off then it

Art Unit: 2615

could never be turned back on since the toggling of power is dependent on the detection of the memory card as disclosed by Matsuo (column 4, lines 53-63).

In regards to claim 13 Matsuo discloses the electronic camera as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

a chamber for containing the external storage medium, the connector being disposed in the chamber (e.g., column 4, lines 32-34); and

a chamber mechanism for discharging the external storage medium from the chamber and receiving the external storage medium into the chamber (e.g., lock release button 7; column 7, line 6 – column 8, line 17);

wherein the detector detects the operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium by detecting an operation of the chamber mechanism (e.g., column 7, line 55 – column 8, line 5).

In regards to claim 16 Matsuo discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., Fig. 1);

a connector for detachably connecting to an external storage medium (e.g., element 17 of Fig. 3);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into the external storage medium through the connector (e.g., element 16 of Fig. 3; column 4, lines 45-52);

a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63);

Art Unit: 2615

a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part (e.g. column 4, lines 53-63);
a detector for detecting a first operation relating to detachment of the external storage medium while the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium, and a second operation relating to attachment of the external storage medium (e.g., Element 18 detects a first operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium, namely if element 18 is on then detachment is eminent. Note that the storage medium is still electrically connected as described on column 7, line 55 – column 8, line 35. Element 18 also detects a second operation relating to the attachment of the storage medium as described on column 7, lines 24-40); and

a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the first operation while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the second operation during the suspension of power (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63).

In regards to claim 17 see examiners notes on the rejection of claims 12 and 16.

In regards to claim 18 Ejima discloses the electronic camera as defined in claim 16, further comprising:

a chamber for containing the external storage medium, the connector being disposed in the chamber; and a chamber mechanism for discharging the external storage medium from the chamber and receiving the external storage medium into the chamber; wherein the detector detects the second operation by detecting an operation of the chamber mechanism (e.g., the card detecting switch 18 detects the operation of lock lever 51).

Art Unit: 2615

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 5,805,219 to Ejima et al) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo).

In regards to claim 1 Ejima et al, herein Ejima, discloses an electronic camera comprising:

- an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., element 1 of Fig. 4 wherein the claimed imaging part is inherent with all cameras);

- an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into an external storage medium (e.g., Fig. 2);

- a connector for detachably connecting the external storage medium to the external storage medium interface (e.g., Figs. 1, 2, and 4-9);

- an external storage medium chamber for receiving the external storage medium connected to the external storage medium interface, the external storage medium chamber having an opening through which the external storage medium is received (e.g., column 2, lines 63-64; Figs. 4-9):

- a lid for closing the opening of the external storage medium chamber (e.g., Figs. 4-9);

- a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., element 72 of Fig. 2);

Art Unit: 2615

a detector for detecting that the lid is opened and closed (e.g., element 19 of Figs. 5-9; column 4, lines 18-29).

Ejima does not disclose nor preclude a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part or a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply.

Matsuo discloses operating a master switch upon detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then power is on and if the card isn't detected then power is off (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's master switch and control method to Ejima's invention in order to eliminate power consumption when taking a picture is impossible.

In regards to claim 2 Matsuo discloses the electronic camera as defined in claim , wherein the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and resumed under control of the controller to at least one of the following: all the components supplied with the power from the power supply part except for the detector and the controller; the external storage medium interface; the connector; and the external storage medium. Examiner notes that in order to toggle the master switch upon detecting the lid is closed power is inherently always supplied to the detector and the controller, otherwise if power was toggled off then it could never be turned back on since the toggling of power is dependent on the detection of the memory card as disclosed by Matsuo (column 4, lines 53-63).

Art Unit: 2615

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 5,805,219 to Ejima et al) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo) in further view of (USPN 5,423,045 to Kannan et al).

In regards to claim 10 neither Ejima nor Matsuo disclose nor preclude the electronic camera as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended, and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

Kannan discloses, as is very well known and established in the electronic art, a state diagram in Fig. 5 wherein if a camera is in a normal mode it can be switched to a standby state by either a period of inactivity or by performing an event to cause the electronics to go into a standby state. Further Kannan discloses that if the electronics are in a standby state for a predetermined time then the power is fully turned off (column 5, lines 39-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have placed the camera in a standby mode when removing the memory card instead of turning off the power in order to realize a quicker startup time and/or conserve power. Further it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have added the step of terminating power after a predetermined time in a standby state in order to further conserve power.

Claims 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo) in view of (USPN 5,423,045 to Kannan et al).

In regards to claim 15 Matsuo does not disclose nor preclude the electronic camera as defined in claim 11, wherein:

the controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended, and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

Kannan discloses, as is very well known and established in the electronic art, a state diagram in Fig. 5 wherein if a camera is in a normal mode it can be switched to a standby state by either a period of inactivity or by performing an event to cause the electronics to go into a standby state. Further Kannan discloses that if the electronics are in a standby state for a predetermined time then the power is fully turned off (column 5, lines 39-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have placed the camera in a standby mode when removing the memory card instead of turning off the power in order to realize a quicker startup time and/or conserve power. Further it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have added the step of terminating power after a predetermined time in a standby state in order to further conserve power.

In regards to claim 20 see examiners notes on the rejection of claim 15.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian C. Genco who can be reached by phone at 703-305-7881 or by fax at 703-746-8325. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2615

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology center 2600 customer service office whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Brian C Genco
Examiner
Art Unit 2615

June 16, 2003



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600